



## UPPER COLORADO RIVER

### FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

BLM-NORTHWEST DISTRICT

USFS-WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

NPS-COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

INTERAGENCY



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### Lost Solar Fire Continues to Provide Benefit to Habitat

**Meeker, Colo. – Aug. 16 – 2016** – Lost Solar Fire, located in the Flat Tops Wilderness on the Blanco Ranger District, is holding at 108 acres. The fire continues to burn slowly and provide habitat benefit to Bighorn Sheep and other big game by clearing overgrown vegetation to make way for new forage.

District and local fire personnel from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit (UCR) continue to manage the Lost Solar Fire with a confine and contain strategy. The confine and contain strategy gives crews the opportunity to monitor the fire from a safe distance while allowing the fire to take a natural course within a pre-identified management area.

“The Lost Solar fire is burning well within the desired management area,” stated Curtis Keetch, District Ranger. “The fire is taking its natural course within that ecosystem and providing long-term benefit for big game habitat.”

A Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) flew over the fire last night to collect infrared data on where the fire is burning. There is minimal fire activity today due to cloud cover. Fire activity is expected to increase slightly over the next few days due to oncoming weather. The fire is currently moving north and northeast up the Lost Solar Drainage into the Flat Tops Wilderness.

“We are encouraging the public to avoid the Lost Solar Drainage,” stated Keetch. “South Fork is still open but folks are encouraged to avoid the area if possible and check in at the Ranger Station before making plans to head that direction.”

For more information about the Lost Solar Fire, please call the Blanco Ranger District at 970-878-4039.

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